

Call to Worship: Glory to God in the Highest and
on earth peace, goodwill to men.

Call to Confession: This is the message we have
heard and that we proclaim, that God is light
and in him is no darkness at all. If we walk in
the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship
with him and the blood of ~~our~~ Jesus his Son
cleanses us from all sin. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

~~Christ~~, have merc~~y~~ upon us.

~~Lord~~, have mercy upon us.

~~Lord~~, have merc~~y~~ upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: There is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus. God showed
his love for us by the gift of his Son Jesus
and if we come to him and confess our sin, He
forgives us and cleanses us by the blood of Christ.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Ralph C. Link, Pastor
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
 Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP December 19, 1971

The Organ Prelude
 *The Hymn of Praise 120
 *The Call to Worship
 *The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
 O Lord, send us forth into the world in
 thy name. Bestow upon us thy power, that
 our weakness may become strength. Grant
 unto us thy love, that our hatred may be
 overcome. And pour forth thy peace, that
 our anxieties may find comfort in thee;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
 *The Kyrie
 *The Assurance of Pardon
 The Scripture----Matthew 1:18-23
 *The Gloria Patri
 The Anthem
 The Pastoral Prayer
 The Choral Response
 The Announcements
 The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
 *The Doxology
 *The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
 The Hymn of Meditation 112
 The Lighting of the Advent Wreath
 The Sermon----"The Seventh Christmas"
 The Sermon Prayer
 *The Hymn of Response 105
 *The Benediction
 *The Threefold Amen
 *The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Pastor and his family take this opportunity to thank the congregation for their cards and greetings for the season. We also wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and God's blessing upon each of you.

The following names have been placed in nomination:

Deaconess--Helen Lyons; Esther Kitner
 Vote for one.

Deacons-----Joe Leyder; Ralph Bailor; Herb Robb; Simon Bowersox; Frank Fry; Lee Saltsburg
 Vote for three.

Elders-----Lee Boggs; Gene Eby; Mabel Hair; Annie Simonton
 Vote for two.

ELECTION NEXT WEEK

POKSETTA IN MEMORY OF MR & MRS.
 JOHN MYERS BY VIRGINIA LESH
 & FAMILY
 FATHER OF GENE EBY PASSED AWAY.
 FUNERAL TODAY CORNER NEWSPAPER
 FROM ST. PETER U.C.C. LANONBURG.

O COME LET US ADORER
HAM
#4
(USE SILENT NIGHT)
ADVENT
MATT

"The Seventh Christmas"

Text: Matthew 1:24-25

The story of the Seventh Christmas was written by Coningsby Dawson. It is the story of Jesus seventh birthday. But rather than try to explain it to you, let me tell you the story instead.

The seventh Christmas started out for everyone else like any other ordinary day. For every except the boy Jesus. To him this was a special day as any birthday is to a young child. But his father and mother did not notice. At least they gave no indication they did.

To Joseph it was just another day in which he would work as usual, trying to eke out a living doing the same old carpenter work. But carpentry for him was not the joy it ^{ONCE} had been. He was being passed by for the younger men. Money was scarce and hard to come by for him. He thought of how people had told him that the trip to Egypt seven years ^{WHEN HE RETURNED THEY DID NOT GIVE HIM WORK} ago had sapped his strength and now he was too old to do the work.

Mary remembered it was her sons birthday, but she did not let on, because she had no present for him and no money to buy one. How well she remembered how angels had told her ^{BE} of how he was to be a king. She also thought of the three ~~gaskets~~ golden boxes given to him by those three kingly looking men. But she had refused to let Joseph sell them as he wanted to do many times before. He always said that if he could sell them off they would have enough money to keep them in food and ^{NEEDED} what they ~~had need of~~ for a long time. But she would not part with them. After all they were given to her son because he was to be a king.

As the day wore on Jesus waited patiently but no present and no recognition that his parents knew it was that special day for him. He saw his mother sitting in the doorway of the shop looking up and down the street as if she was awaiting someone. His father would work a bit on the ox yoke and grow tired and rest. From time to time he would nod

and drop off to sleep for a few moments and wake a few moments later to toil anew on the yoke. Poor father thought Jesus, if only I could do the work for him. He is so old and tired.

Seeing his parents thus burdened with the cares of life, he started to sing for them. "The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want" he sang, and his mother smiled at him. When he could hold it back no longer Jesus ran to his mother and threw his arms around her. Mother, he said, "Do you know what today is?" She replied, "No I have not forgotten, I know it is your seventh birthday, but I do not have anything to give you." He laid his head on her shoulder and looking down at him she asked, "Are you sleepy?" He shook his head and told her he had been wondering about something his father had said to him about telling him a story, but he had to wait until he was grown to really believe it. He asked his mother about it. She said, "I will tell you the story of a king who was born seven years ago today." "Is it a true story," he asked?

"A true story, but you may not believe it," she replied.

"One evening," she said, "she was sitting in her garden, when an angel came to her and told her she was to have a child. This child was to be a king and would rule all of Israel. She told him how Joseph had accepted her and what was to happen, but did not completely understand. Then she told how they had gone to Bethlehem for the census and how while they were there the time came for him ~~to be~~ the king to be born. They only found room in a lowly stable and this is where ~~the mother~~ ^{SHE} gave birth to this king. Then shepherds came to the stable to see this boy king. And the angels had appeared to them also.

Shortly thereafter there was a stir in the town and some elegantly dressed men with an entourage of servants came down the street knocking on doors and asking for him who was born king of the Jews.

The innkeeper was awakened and told them he knew ~~of~~ ^{OF}

no king that had been born in Bethlehem that night or any other. But they pointed to a bright star in the sky and told him they had been following it for sometime. But then it seemed as though the star had settled over the stable where the mother and baby were and the three gentlemen entered followed by their servants. Each of them came forward and each took from a servant a gold box. The first man opened his box and brought out a crown of gold. "This is for power" he said as he put it on the baby's head. "The gold of it is made up of thirty pieces of coin." The second man opened his box and a strong perfume came out of it. "This incense is for the worship of you" he said presenting it to the baby. The third man opened his box and gave it to the mother saying, "This is myrrh which signifies death- a gift to every man born of woman." And then they departed. Then Jesus asked his mother, "Was it I that was born that night?" "Yes it was," she answered.

"Well if it was I then the golden boxes were given to me and I would like to see them," he said. Mary went into the shop and from the golden boxes and the robe she had made. their secret hiding place she brought them out. With trembling hands *SHE PUT THE LITTLE ROBE ON HIM* she opened the first box and from it took a golden crown and put it on his head. From the second she drew forth the frankincense and spread it on his robe. But the third box she did not open. Then off in the distance she heard the thudding of a fast running camel. "Where is he? Where is he?" She heard a voice *FAINTLY* calling. As he drew closer to town the sound grew louder and his weak voice could be heard *MUCH* plainer calling, "Where is he - Where is he?" As he drew near to the carpenter shop, Mary went outside and he asked as he came up to her, "Where is he who is born king of the Jews?" He was dusty and dirty from many days of travel. His voice was parched and cracked from calling out along the way. , From the East he explained that he had come. He told her that the ~~old~~ old man who had been with him seven years ago, Melchoir was dying. He explained that Melchoir longed for the certainty that the child king was still alive.

He asked Mary if she could tell him where to find him. She pointed to the open doorway of the shop where stood Jesus. Looking at him he saw the golden crown gleaming in the moonlight. While at his feet the golden boxes stood. Rushing up to Jesus he took him in his arms and said, "It is true it is true. It was no dream.² "I came to you before with a Lordly train but now I come stained with the dust of travel and empty handed. What is there that I can give you?"

Jesus answered, "It is my seventh birthday and my mother is hungry." The man pulled out some bread and dates from a ~~pouch~~^{pouch} and they ate in silence.

Then they talked, and the man told them he would give them palaces and marble and gold were they in his town. Slowly the night wore on and the man said he must return. "But what can we send back to Melchior to convince him that it really happened?" Mary asked. She thought of the crown but Melchior had given that. Then she thought of the frankincense but that was gone from the box as well. Mary thought of the carpenter tools, but Joseph needed them. Jesus said, "I know we will give him the third box to take with him." But Mary said, "no it means death and we cannot send that." But Jesus went and got the box and said that he would give it but first he would open it to see its contents. When he did a bright and dazzling light burst forth and instead of the gift of myrrh for death out of the box drifted a star. As it floated heavenward, the man cried, "The star which we had lost, the star which we had lost."

The star stood over the carpenter shop and waited for the man to follow. As he departed, Mary stood holding Jesus hand watching him ride away with the star leading him. They sat in the doorway and soon Mary was fast asleep. Jesus wrapped his robe about her. ~~Then~~^{OFF} he took ~~off~~^{OFF} his golden crown and put it in the golden box. Then he did something he had never done before, he took his fathers tools and worked on the ox yoke. When Mary awoke in the morning she thought she had been

Although this is only a story, this is what the Roman Centurion said as he stood at the cross and watched this same Jesus die. ~~THIS IS WHAT HE SAID AT THE TIME OF THE YEAR~~ Truly this is the Son of God, O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.